




CHAPTER
FOUR

ELICUT



COGITOTM
ERGO MEEPLE

JOSEPH ADAMS // MADELEIENE ADAMS // ADAM BEACHEY



"A MAN HAS BEEN KILLED DURING WHAT APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN AN ATTEMPT TO CAUSE DAMAGE TO THE NEWEST MODELS OF AUTOMATONS FROM NEAR EARTH DYNAMIC SYSTEMS THE NEDS-MX2700BB2 MORE COMMONLY KNOWN AS NEDS."

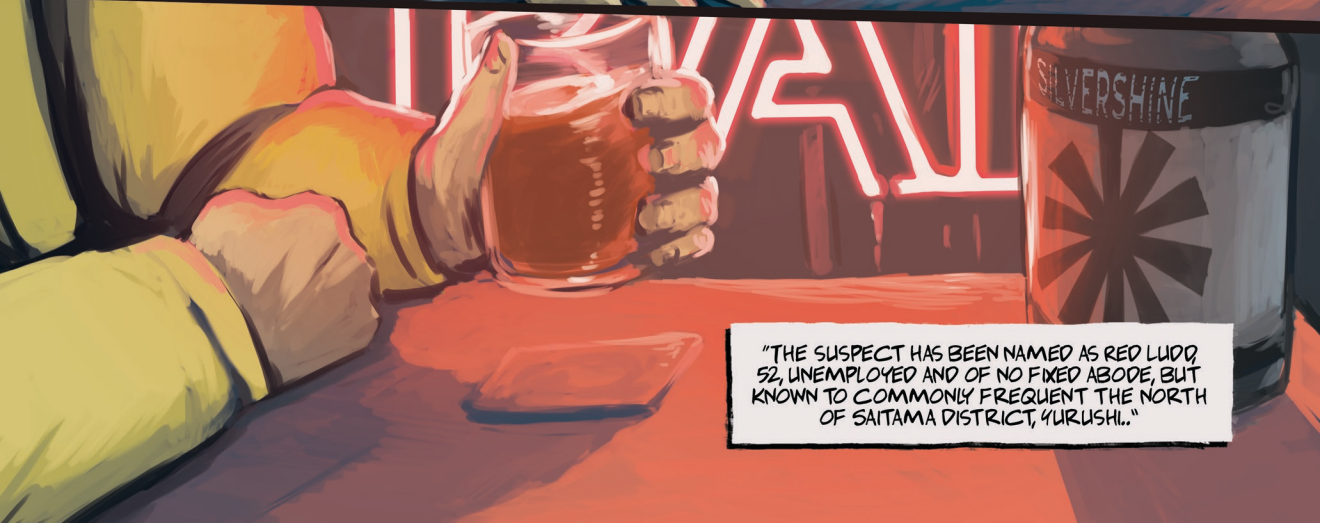


NEAR EARTH DYNAMIC SYSTEMS

Sabotage of the NEDS - Suspect Killed

Breaking News 速報

ASTA NEWS



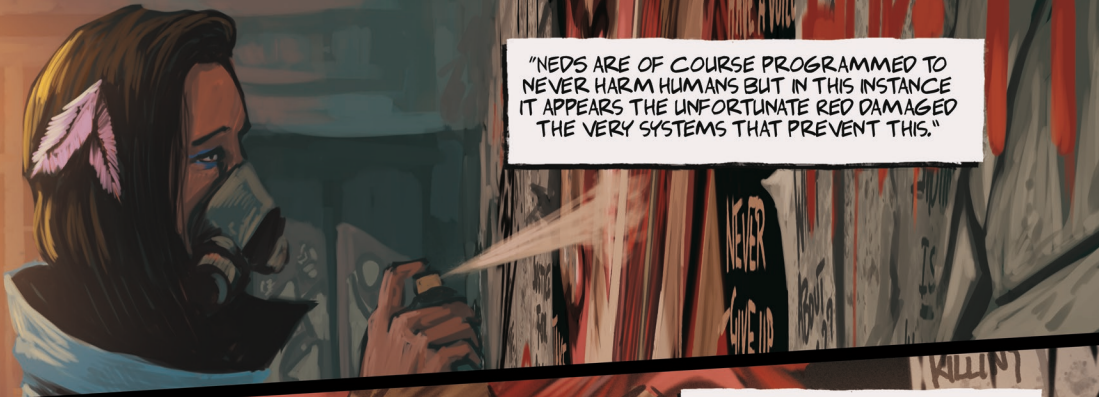
SILVERSHINE

"THE SUSPECT HAS BEEN NAMED AS RED LUDD, 52, UNEMPLOYED AND OF NO FIXED ABODE, BUT KNOWN TO COMMONLY FREQUENT THE NORTH OF SAITAMA DISTRICT, YURUSHI.."

"IT APPEARS THAT MR LUDD BROKE THROUGH THE SECURITY PERIMETER AT THE YURUSHI FACTORY AND DAMAGED THE CIRCUITRY OF SEVERAL NEDS CAUSING MILLIONS OF CREDITS IN DAMAGE."



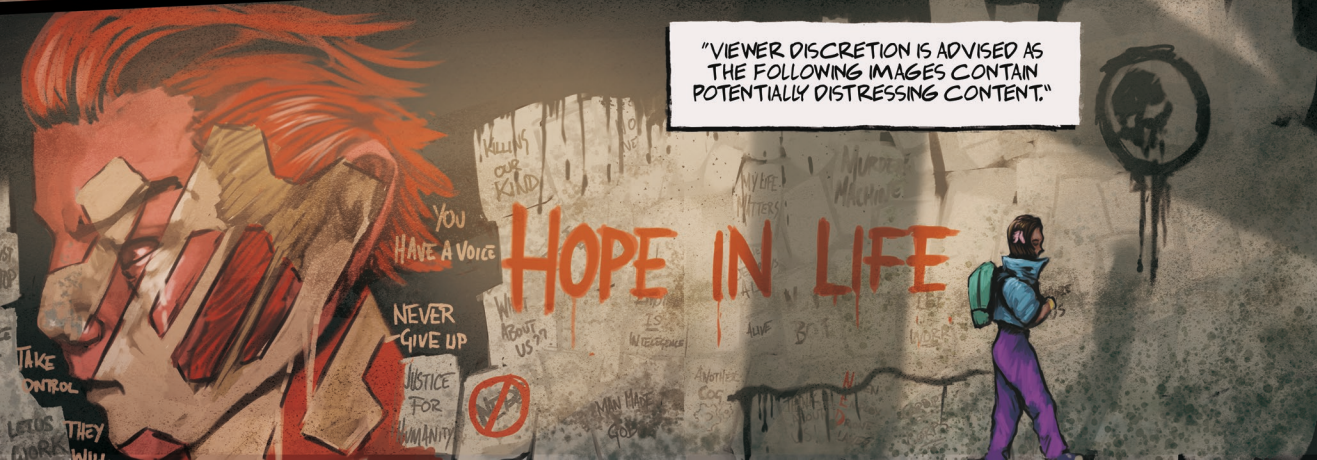
"NEDS ARE OF COURSE PROGRAMMED TO NEVER HARM HUMANS BUT IN THIS INSTANCE IT APPEARS THE UNFORTUNATE RED DAMAGED THE VERY SYSTEMS THAT PREVENT THIS."



"IT APPEARS HIS DEATH AT THE HANDS OF THE NEDS WAS RATHER AN UNPLEASANT ONE."



"VIEWER DISCRETION IS ADVISED AS THE FOLLOWING IMAGES CONTAIN POTENTIALLY DISTRESSING CONTENT."





"THE MOTIVATION OF MR LUDD IS UNCLEAR BUT WE HAVE HEARD CREDIBLE REPORTS THAT HE WAS SUFFERING FROM SEVERE MENTAL HEALTH ISSUES DUE TO EXCESSIVE CONSUMPTION OF STREETSHINE..."

"...THE COLLOQUIAL TERM FOR A SILVERSHINE LIKE SUBSTANCE NOT MADE BY THE OFFICIAL SILVERSHINE CORPORATION WHICH IS COMMON IN THE NORTH DISTRICTS OF SAITAMA."



THE LIES DISGUSTED ME...



THE CORP'S PR TEAM SEEMED TO HAVE ANTICIPATED EVERYTHING RED WAS TRYING TO ACHIEVE.



RED HAD BEEN NOWHERE NEAR A NED WHEN HE DIED.

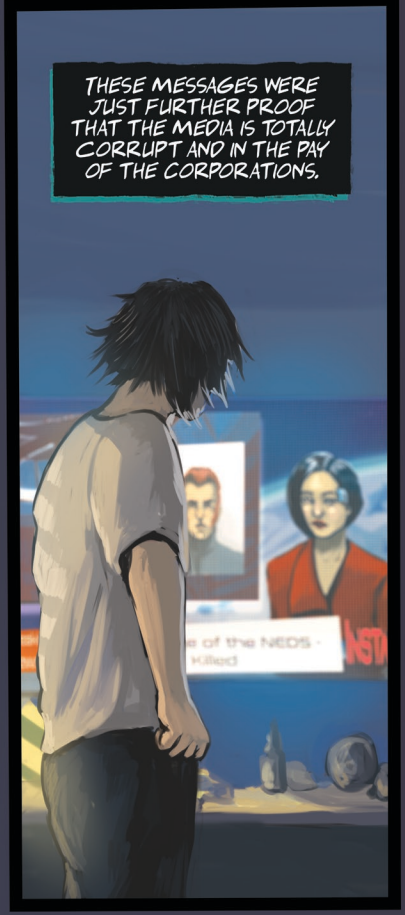
THE FACTORY WE WERE LINKED TO WAS MILES AWAY.



THE OBSPO HAD KILLED HIM AND COVERED IT UP.



THESE MESSAGES WERE JUST FURTHER PROOF THAT THE MEDIA IS TOTALLY CORRUPT AND IN THE PAY OF THE CORPORATIONS.

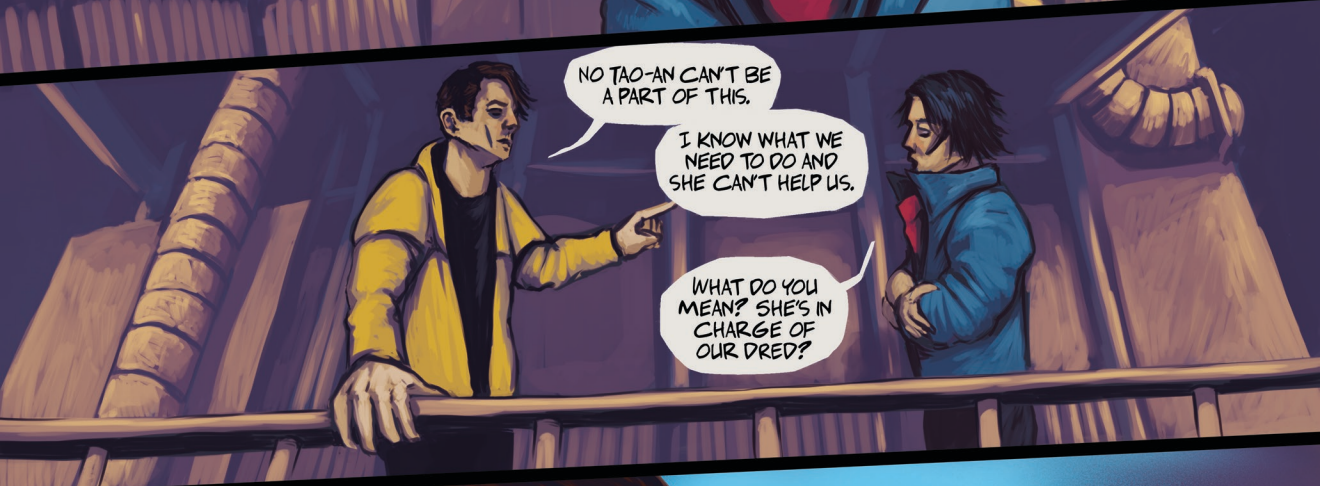




THIS CAN'T WAIT.
WE NEED TO DO
SOMETHING
ABOUT THIS NOW.



AGREED YOU GET
TAO-AN AND I'LL MEET
YOU AT THE JETTY.



NO TAO-AN CAN'T BE
A PART OF THIS.

I KNOW WHAT WE
NEED TO DO AND
SHE CAN'T HELP US.

WHAT DO YOU
MEAN? SHE'S IN
CHARGE OF
OUR DRED?

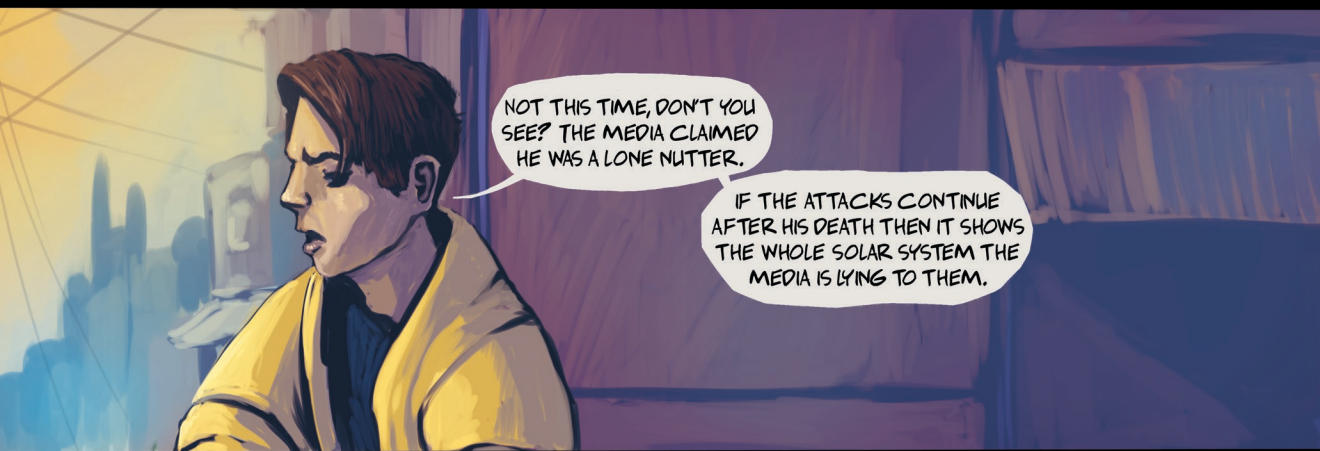


RED GAVE ME THE
ACCESS CODES FOR A
NED JUST BEFORE HE
GOT CAUGHT.



IT'S FOR THE NED AT THE BANK OF YURUSHU! HIS PLAN WAS FOR US TO ATTACK IT NEXT.

BUT WHY? THEY WILL JUST COVER IT UP AGAIN!

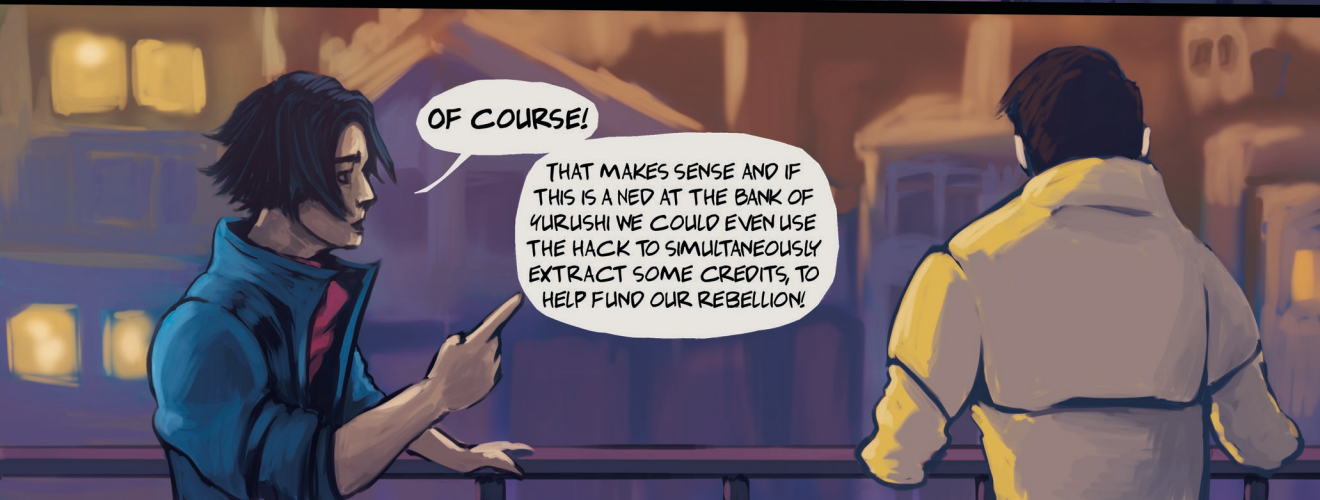


NOT THIS TIME, DON'T YOU SEE? THE MEDIA CLAIMED HE WAS A LONE NUTTER.

IF THE ATTACKS CONTINUE AFTER HIS DEATH THEN IT SHOWS THE WHOLE SOLAR SYSTEM THE MEDIA IS LYING TO THEM.



IT IS HOW RED WANTED US TO SPREAD THE MESSAGE.



OF COURSE!

THAT MAKES SENSE AND IF THIS IS A NED AT THE BANK OF YURUSHU WE COULD EVEN USE THE HACK TO SIMULTANEOUSLY EXTRACT SOME CREDITS, TO HELP FUND OUR REBELLION!





BUT I STILL DON'T UNDERSTAND WHY CAN'T TAO-AN JOIN US.

I WON'T PUT HER IN THIS LEVEL OF DANGER UNNECESSARILY, WE'LL BE USING THE STEELWORKS AGAIN.



SHE'D STILL WANT TO BE PART OF IT.

I KNOW BUT WE HAVE ALL WE NEED BETWEEN US. ME FOR THE UPLOAD AND YOU FOR THE HACK.



SHE WAS OUR LINK TO RED BUT THAT'S NOT EXACTLY NEEDED ANYMORE.

WE DON'T NEED HER THERE AND I WON'T PUT HER IN DANGER FOR THE SAKE OF IT..



WE'LL REPORT BACK TO HER AFTER.



I ACCEPTED IN ALL HONESTY, I WOULD HAVE DONE ANYTHING TO PROTECT TAO-AN AND DREX WAS RIGHT THAT SHE DID NOT NEED TO BE IN DANGER THIS TIME





WOW YOU'VE SET THIS UP QUICKLY! HOW DID YOU MANAGE THAT?

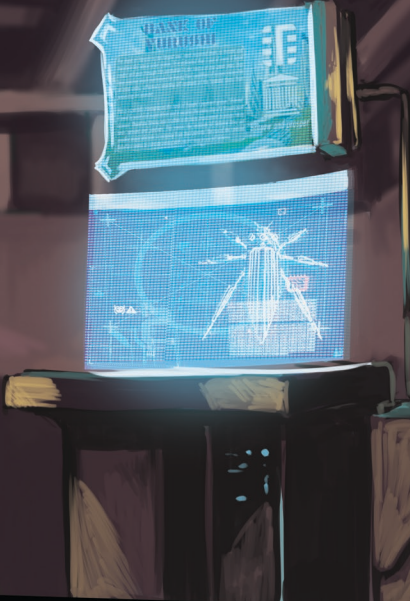
YEAH, LOOK WE DON'T HAVE TIME FOR ALL THAT NOW.



RED SAID THIS STRIKE NEEDS TO HAPPEN JUST AFTER HIS DEATH WAS REPORTED.

PEOPLE NEED TO MAKE THE CONNECTION BETWEEN THE TWO EVENTS.

ARE YOU READY FOR THE HACK?



OK I THINK SO. ANYTHING I NEED TO KNOW ABOUT THIS ONE?





NOT REALLY JUST THAT
THE TIMERS CAN BE A
LITTLE STRANGE ON
THESE BANK NEDS.



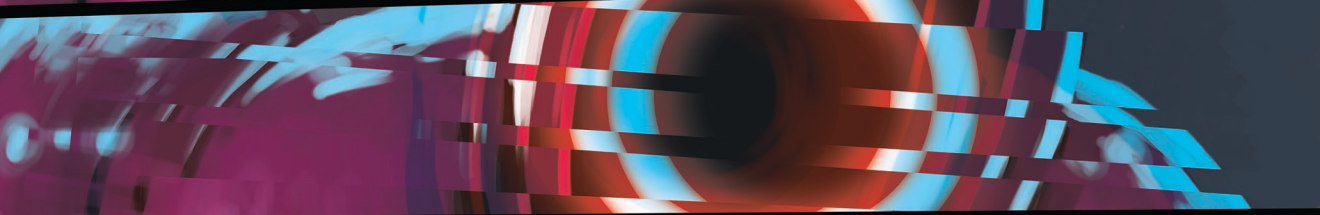
ALSO IF YOU MESS
UP THERE ARE
NO DO-OVERS
WITH THIS ONE.

TRY TO IGNORE
THAT AND JUST DELVE
STRAIGHT INTO THE
CIRCUITS.



SENDING YOU
IN NOW.

BANK OF YURUSHI





SORRY TO SAY THIS
BUT THE OBSP0 ARE
ON THEIR WAY HERE
RIGHT NOW.



DREX! WHAT
ARE YOU DOING?
WHY?



IT'S NOT JUST THE MONEY
YOU KNOW MATE, I'D HAVE
DONE THIS FOR FREE!



YOU AND RED
THINK YOU'RE SO
SLEGGING IMPORTANT.
IT'S PATHETIC, YOU'RE
NOT GOING TO CHANGE
ANYTHING. NEW TECH
ALWAYS BEATS OLD AND
THE CORPS WILL
ALWAYS WIN.



ALL YOU'D END UP
DOING IS GETTING
ME OR TAO-AN
KILLED!



WHAT WILL TAO-AN SAY, SHE'LL HATE YOU FOR THIS!



SHE'LL NEVER KNOW, AND THANKS TO ME SHE'LL NEVER HAVE TO SEE THE INSIDE OF A CELL ON CERES.



DREX... I...


I COULD HEAR THE SIRENS OUTSIDE AND I KNEW I WAS OUT OF OPTIONS. THE OBSPO WOULD BE HERE IN FORCE AND THERE WAS NO ESCAPE.

DREX WOULD HAVE SHARED MY INFORMATION WITH THEM ALREADY. I WAS DOOMED...






MY MIND RACED AND THE FIRST FACE THAT CAME TO ME WAS TAO-AN.



DREX DIDN'T WANT HER HERE, HE MUST BE TRYING TO PROTECT HER IN HIS OWN WAY, SO I DOUBTED HE WOULD HAVE MENTIONED HER NAME TO THE OBSPO.



BUT HE DIDN'T SEEM TO GET THE SITUATION, THE OBSPO WEREN'T ABOUT TO LET HIM JUST GO.

HE WAS AN ENGINEER FROM NEAR EARTH DYNAMIC SYSTEMS, HE HAD KNOWN LINKS TO SABOTEURS.



HE MAY HAVE SOLD ME OUT BUT THAT WOULDN'T BE ENOUGH TO SAVE HIM, WE WERE BOTH GOING DOWN TONIGHT.

I THOUGHT OF THE TORTURE CHAMBERS AT CERES, NO ONE RETURNED AND NO ONE COULD HOLD OUT FOREVER... I HATED TO ADMIT IT BUT EVENTUALLY, WE'D HAVE BOTH GIVEN UP TAO-AN... AND SHE COULD STILL BE SAVED



THE CRASH GAVE ME THE HALF SECOND DISTRACTION I NEEDED

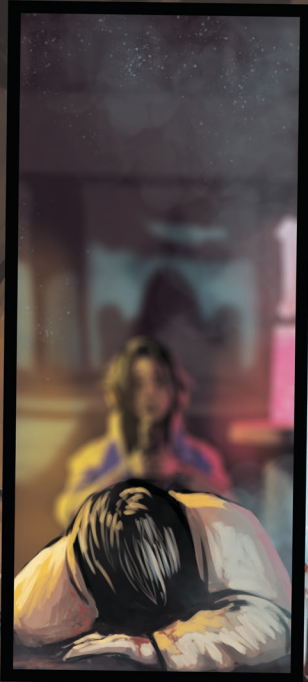


DREX WASN'T AWARE OF THE OLD KREX PISTOL, I'D NEVER MENTIONED IT TO HIM.



I PULLED IT FROM MY JACKET AND FIRED...





I WASN'T GOING TO ESCAPE,
BUT AT LEAST I WOULD GO
OUT ON MY OWN TERMS...



...AND TAO-AN
WOULD BE SAFE.

//LUDDITE.

BY JOSEPH ADAMS AND MADELEINE ADAMS
ART BY ADAM BEACHEY

